

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1111

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Harry Oliver Snodgrass of Mt. Juliet for meritorious service to these United States.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through military service; and

WHEREAS, Harry Snodgrass, born October 18, 1922, in Johnson City, is one such individual who served his country with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for his service in World War II; and

WHEREAS, taking the U.S. Army oath of enlistment on his 20th birthday in 1942, Private Snodgrass arrived at Cumberland University in April of 1943 and participated in the massive, 800,000-strong Tennessee Maneuvers with the 503rd Quartermaster Car Company, 2nd Army in preparation for the invasion of Normandy; and

WHEREAS, Harry Snodgrass and his company shipped out aboard the *Queen Mary* in October of 1943 and were stationed in Bristol, England until D-Day; and

WHEREAS, two days after D-Day on June 8, 1944, Mr. Snodgrass drove a light cargo carrier, a Weasel, off the landing craft onto Omaha Beach and into the European Theater of battle; and

WHEREAS, during his tour of duty, Harry Snodgrass and his company fought through the Normandy countryside, on to liberate the strategic city of St. Lo, and further on through France and Belgium, seeing action in the Battle of the Bulge; and

WHEREAS, in April 1945, Mr. Snodgrass reached the Buchenwald concentration camp and went through the facility with a Lithuanian prisoner-*cum*-guide, seeing first-hand the indescribable atrocities against humanity; and

WHEREAS, after the war, Mr. Snodgrass returned to Tennessee and married Ruth Thorne, whom he had met while stationed at Cumberland University; the couple has been married for sixty-one years and has lived in Mt. Juliet since 1954; and

WHEREAS, today Mr. Snodgrass speaks to schools and gatherings about what he witnessed as a liberator; he stresses the dangers of racial and religious divisiveness, believing, “for evil to exist, it just takes good people to do nothing”; and

WHEREAS, Harry Snodgrass performed his military duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism, and today teaches current generations about difficult past lessons; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Harry Oliver Snodgrass for his meritorious service in United State Army and offer our thanks for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.